

Atty Docket No.: 10416/19
Serial No. 10/071,724
Amdt. dated 1/20/2004
Response to Office action of 10/20/03

REMARKS

Amendments To The Specification

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification merely correct grammatical errors, and no new matter has been added.

Amendments To The Claims

Allowable Subject Matter – Claims 1-4, 6-18, 21-28, and 31-41

Claims 5-17, 19, 22-27 and 30-32 were objected to in the Office action of October 20, 2003 as dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 6-13, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28 and 31-34 have been amended. Claims 5, 19, 20, 29 and 30 have been deleted. New claims 35-41 have been added. Claims 1-4, 6-18, 21-28 and 31-41 are now all directed towards subject matter that previously has been identified by the Examiner as allowable.

Claims 5-12 and 30 were indicated as directed towards allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach or disclose “the providing means being achieved by a removed portion exposing a part of the bottom surface of the dielectric block.” Claims 13-17 and 31 were indicated as directed towards allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach or disclose “the providing means being achieved by a coupling stub formed on the bottom surface of the dielectric block and physically connected to the second metal plate.” Claim 19 were indicated as directed towards allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach or disclose “the first exciting electrode being in further contact with the first edge and the second exciting electrode being in further contact with the second edge.” Claims 22 and 23 were indicated as directed towards allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach or disclose “the first and second exciting electrodes, which are disposed in the sides of the dielectric block, are prevented from contacting the second metal plate.” Claims 25-27 and 32 were indicated as directed towards allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach or disclose “the providing means being achieved by removing a corner of the dielectric block.”

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Claims 1, 13, 18, 22, 25, 28, 31 and 32 are independent. Claim 1 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 18 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 19. Claim 28 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 31 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claim 32 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 25. All of the remaining claims depend from either independent claim 1, 13, 18, 22, 25, 28, 31 or 32 and, thus, are also directed towards allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6-18, 21-28, and 31-41 are now in condition for allowance.

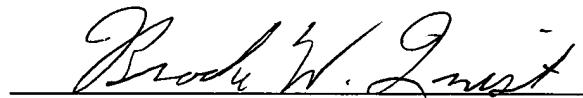
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CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing discussions, it is clear that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art. Therefore, consideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-18, 21-28, and 31-41 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8319. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/20/04


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